

Jobbnorge ID: 245927
Deadline: 9/1/2023
Website: <http://www.uis.no/>
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Fixed Term

PhD Fellowship in Political & Social Sciences

Job description

The University of Stavanger invites applicants for a PhD Fellowship at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Media & Social Sciences. The position is vacant from January 1st 2024.

This position offers promising young political or social scientists the opportunity to conduct an original research project on how technological innovation affects citizens' use of and attitudes toward public health care services and, in turn, health inequality and political conflicts around health care. Doing this project will equip you with hands-on skills in survey methods and experimental social research and an expertise on health care politics, voter attitudes and behaviour, and the digital transformation. This will qualify you for research-focussed positions in academia and other fields (e.g., public opinion & market research, policy consulting)

The hired candidate will be admitted to the PhD program in Social Sciences. The program includes relevant courses amounting to about six months of study, a dissertation based on independent research, participation in national and international research environments, relevant academic communication, a trial lecture and public defence. Read more about the PhD education at UiS on [our website](#).

The appointment is for three years with research duties exclusively.

Research topic

Technological change and digitalization are rapidly changing how health care services are provided and "consumed". One important development is the recent emergence and growth of private health care companies that use digital technologies (e.g., smartphone apps) to offer flexible and fast consultations and other services. By providing these services, these companies directly compete with existing public health care providers, and their continued expansion would have the potential to fundamentally transform publicly funded health care systems in countries like Norway.

Not much is currently known about how people use private digital health care services, their perceptions of private providers, the factors that determine access to and choices between public and private providers, and the potential for political conflict around private health care. This lack of insights is hindering an informed public debate around this issue and the design of policies to successfully manage this development.

Your PhD project will address this gap and map citizens' perceptions, preferences, and potential access barriers related to private digital health care services using experimental, survey, and/or qualitative social science methods (e.g., focus groups). Your results will contribute to an important public debate and to a growing scientific literature on the political and social consequences of the digital transformation.

If hired, you will work under the supervision of Associate Professor [Carlo Knotz](#), Associate Professor [Raul Ferrer Conill](#), and Professor [Ingunn Tøllisen Ellingsen](#).

Project proposal

As an applicant, you must prepare a preliminary project proposal for a doctoral project within the subject area, which explains the problem, relevance, theoretical and methodological approach. Your preliminary project proposal will be included in the application assessment.

During the first three months of the employment period, the project proposal and progress plan will be further developed in cooperation with your supervisors and completed for the final plan for the PhD-project. A project proposal template can be found [here](#).

The proposal should not be longer than 3000 words.

Qualification requirements

We are looking for applicants with a strong academic background who have completed a five-year master degree (3+2) within political science, sociology, economics, psychology, preferably acquired recently; or who possess corresponding qualifications that could provide a basis for successfully completing a doctorate.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Stavanger both the grade for your master's thesis and the weighted average grade of your master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade. If you finish your education (masters degree) in the autumn of 2023 you are also welcome to apply.

Applicants with an education from an institution with a different grade scale than A-F, and/or with other types of credits than sp/ECTS, must attach a confirmed conversion scale that shows how the grades can be compared with the Norwegian A-F scale and a Diploma

Supplement or similar that explains the scope of the subjects that are included in the education. [You can use these conversion scales to calculate your points for admission.](#)

Emphasis is also placed on your:

- Documented interest in current research on digitalisation, political and social attitudes and behaviour, health care systems, and/or welfare states.
- Skills in quantitative research methods, preferably documented with thesis project(s), work experience, or similar. Knowledge about and interest in survey and/or experimental social science methods would be an advantage.
- An ability to use (or willingness to learn) statistical software packages (R, Stata, SAS, or similar)
- A strong motivation and clear potential to contribute to international political and social research
- A structured approach to work, resiliency, and curiosity.
- Fluency in English, written and spoken. Knowledge of Norwegian or other Scandinavian languages is not a requirement but would be considered an advantage.

Requirements for competence in English

A good proficiency in English is required for anyone attending the PhD program. International applicants must document this with a valid test certificate from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL - Test of English as a Foreign Language, Internet-Based Test (IBT). Minimum result: 90
- IELTS - International English Language Testing Service. Minimum result: 6.5
- Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) or Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) from the University of Cambridge
- PTE Academic - Pearson Test of English Academic. Minimum result: 62

The following applicants are exempt from the above requirements:

- Applicants with one year of completed university studies in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA
- Applicants with an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma
- Applicants with a completed bachelor's and / or master's degrees taught in English in a EU/EEA country
- Applicants who are exempt based on NOKUT's [GSU list](#)

We offer

- a PhD education in a large, exciting and societally important organisation
- an ambitious work community which is developing rapidly. We strive to include employees at all levels in strategic decisions and promote an informal atmosphere with a flat organisational structure.
- salary in accordance with the State Salary Scale, l.pl 17.515, code 1017, NOK 532 200 gross per year with salary development according to seniority in the position. From the salary, 2% is deducted as a contribution to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund.
- automatic membership in the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#), which provides favourable insurance- and retirement benefits
- favourable membership terms at a gym and at the [SIS sports club](#) at campus
- employment with an Inclusive Workplace organisation which is committed to reducing sick leave, increasing the proportion of employees with reduced working capacity, and increasing the number of professionally active seniors
- "[Hjem-jobb-hjem](#)" discounted public transport to and from work
- as an employee in Norway, you will have access to an optimal health service, as well as good pensions, generous maternity/paternity leave, and a competitive salary. Nursery places are guaranteed and reasonably priced
- relocation programme
- [language courses](#): On this page you can see which language courses you may be entitled to (look up "language courses" under employment conditions)
- Hands-on research experience and training on how to design opinion surveys and survey experiments (e.g [here](#)).
- An interdisciplinary and international team of supervisors, combining political science with media sciences and social work.
- A friendly and supportive work environment that values creativity and new ideas.
- Integration in one of two relevant [doctoral schools](#) at the Faculty of Social Sciences as well as the [Network for Welfare Research](#) and/or the Digital Society Research Group.

Diversity

University of Stavanger values independence, involvement and innovation. Diversity is respected and considered a resource in our work and learning environment. Universal design characterises physical and digital learning environments, and we strive to provide reasonable adjustments for employees with disabilities.

You are encouraged to apply regardless of gender, disability or cultural background.

Contact information

More information on the position (and project description) can be obtained from Head of Department Oluf Langhelle, tel: +47 51 83 15 08, e-post: oluf.langhelle@uis.no or Associate Professor Carlo Knotz, tel: +47 51 83 16 28, e-mail: carlo.knotz@uis.no.

Information about the appointment procedure can be obtained from HR-advisor Christina Storm, tel: +47 51 83 17 53, e-mail: christina.storm@uis.no.

Application

To apply for this position please follow the link "Apply for this job". Your application letter, relevant education and work experience as well as language skills must be registered here. In your application letter, you must state your research interests and motivation for the position.

The following documents must be uploaded as attachments to your application:

- a cover letter in which you explain your motivation
- a project proposal, a project proposal template [can be found here](#).
- CV with a full summary of your education and experience
- references, certificates/diplomas and other documentation that you consider relevant
- Diploma Supplement or similar and a confirmed conversion scale if this is required
- documentation on competence in English if this is required
- publications or other relevant research work

Applications are evaluated based on the information available in Jobbnorge at the application deadline. You should ensure that your application shows clearly how your skills and experience meet the criteria which are set out above and that you have attached the necessary documentation.

The documentation must be available in either a Scandinavian language or in English. If the total size of the attachments exceeds 30 MB, they must be compressed before upload.

Please note that information on applicants may be published even if the applicant has requested not to be included in the official list of applicants - see [Section 25 of the Freedom of Information Act](#). If your request is not granted, you will be notified.

UiS only considers applications and attachments registered in Jobbnorge.

General information

The engagement is to be made in accordance with the regulations in force concerning State Employees and Civil Servants, and the acts relating to Control of the Export of Strategic Goods, Services and Technology. If your application is considered to be in conflict with the criteria in the latter legislation, it will be rejected without further assessment.

Employment as PhD Fellow is regulated in "[Regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment for the posts of post-doctoral research fellow and research fellow, research assistant and resident](#)".

Your qualifications for the position, based on documentation registered in Jobbnorge, will be assessed by an internal expert committee. Based on the committee's statement, relevant applicants will be invited to an interview before any recommendations are made. References will also be obtained for relevant candidates. [More about the hiring process on our website](#).

The appointee will be based at the University of Stavanger, with the exception of a stay abroad at a relevant centre of research.

It is a prerequisite that you have a residence which enables you to be present at/available to the academic community during ordinary working hours.

The position has been announced in both Norwegian and English. In the case of differences of meaning between the texts, the Norwegian text takes precedence.

UiS - challenge the well-known and explore the unknown

The University of Stavanger (UiS) has about 12,000 students and 2,200 employees. The university has high ambitions. We strive to have an innovative and international profile, and be a driving force in knowledge development and in the process of societal change. Our common direction is driven by consideration for green and sustainable change and equitable social development, through new ways of managing natural resources and facilitating better cities and local communities. Energy, health and welfare, learning for life are our focus areas.

In constant collaboration and dialogue with our surroundings, regionally, nationally and internationally, we enjoy an open and creative climate for education, research, innovation, dissemination and museum activities. Academic life at the University of Stavanger is organised into six faculties comprising various departments/schools and National Research Centres, as well as the Museum of Archaeology. We are a member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities. The university is located in the most attractive region in the country with more than 300,000 inhabitants. The Stavanger region has a dynamic labour market and exciting cultural and leisure activities.

Together with our staff and students we will challenge the well-known and explore the unknown.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has about 2,400 students and 210 employees. The studies are based on a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge, on interdisciplinarity and cooperation with public and private sectors. New knowledge is generated from both practical experience and systematic research, or a combination of them. The educational offer is varied and includes Hospitality and Tourism, Media, Sociology, Social Work and Child Welfare, amongst others. The Faculty consists of: Department of Media and Social Sciences, Department of Social Studies and the Norwegian School of Hotel Management.

The Department of Media and Social Sciences offers study programs and carries out research within Change Management, Energy/Environment/Society, Sociology, Documentary production, Television and Media Production and Journalism. There are currently 70 employees including research fellows and postdocs, and around 900 students at the department.

Additional information

Place of service:

Ullandhaug 4032 Stavanger (Stavanger Municipality)